

Backers of Federal Dam at Hells Canyon Hope Congress Will Reserve Decision

Washington — (U.P.) — Backers of a proposed government dam in Hells Canyon said Saturday they hope Congress will reserve a preliminary decision to license construction of an Idaho Power Company dam in the canyon.

But the company president said his firm is "ready and anxious to start work on its dam to relieve power shortages. He criticized "delaying tactics" by "public power advocates."

The decision was handed down by William J. Costello, an examiner for the Federal Power Commission. He recommended construction of Brownlee Dam, but ruled against immediate construction of two other dams the company sought licenses for—Oxbow and Low Hells Canyon.

He said construction of Brownlee would mean that the high government dam could not be built.

Mrs. Evelyn N. Cooper, an attorney who represented public power groups opposing Idaho Power's application for three dams said Costello's decision will be appealed to the commission itself.

An appeal would mean that a final FPC decision could not be reached for several months and perhaps for as long as a year. Without an appeal it could be made in less than two months.

Mrs. Cooper said that statements in Costello's decision actually favored the high dam over the company plan. In effect the decision "has thrown down the gauntlet to Congress," she said.

Sen. Richard L. Neuberger (D-Ore.), a high dam advocate, said that if the ruling "is not reversed by a congressional decision we are seeing the beginning of the end of the Bonneville power program in the Pacific Northwest."

Rep. Gracie Pfost (D-Ida.) said the decision "makes it mandatory that Congress dispose of

the matter by authorizing construction of the high dam." Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.) said Costello's decision was based on an assumption "beyond his power to make," but said it would aid in getting the government dam approved.

Idaho Power president T. E. Roach said his company was "understandably pleased" at the decision and would go ahead with Brownlee Dam "as soon as final clearance is received."

"It is of course our earnest hope," he said, "that the final order of the commission will be forthcoming as soon as physically possible and that no further obstacles or delaying tactics will be interposed by the advocates of public power which will be detrimental to our customers."

Roach also said that power use is growing so rapidly in Idaho and the Northwest that Oxbow application "without prejudice" and a new application could be filed immediately.

Costello said a market could

be "reasonably predicted" only for the one dam. His decision also said that he did not make a recommendation on the federal dam because the chances of its being authorized are "remote."

Backers of the dam contested the statement but made no public estimates of the chances of the authorization bill in this Congress. Hearings on it were completed Friday by a Senate Interior Subcommittee and committee action is expected in a week or two. However, no House hearings have been scheduled.

Costello said in his decision that it would be "completely useless for the FPC to make a recommendation to Congress on the proposed federal dam."

Congress already has a "great store of data" on the proposal and "little new or additional information" could be supplied, he said. In any event, he said, the effect of such a recommendation would be to "freeze" development on that section of the river for an "indeterminate" time.

Washington GOP Sees Magnuson As Too Strong for Gov. Langlie; Morse-Patterson Fight Shaping

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Correspondent

Washington (Special) — One-half of the Republican plan to recapture the Senate seats of Democrats Wayne Morse and Warren G. Magnuson in next year's election has just about reached a state of collapse.

This was the plan, widely heralded in the Pacific Northwest press some months ago, to pit Oregon Gov. Paul Patterson against Morse and Washington Gov. Arthur B. Langlie against Magnuson.

The Langlie half of the governor vs. senator scheme has been all but scrapped by Wash-

ington state Republicans who reluctantly are coming to the conclusion that Senator Magnuson is invincible. They know for a fact that Magnuson has never been defeated in over 20 years of running for public office and that his popularity appears as high as ever in the Evergreen state, based on a recent Elmo Roper poll taken by the GOP.

This has been the outlook here this past week coming out of the governors' conference which Langlie attended, but Patterson missed due to the legislature being in session.

Langlie is now being pressed by party bigwigs to run for a fourth term at Olympia, which most observers believe could be his for the running, despite the governor's announced personal preference to step down when his current term expires the end of next year. Up to recently, all the talk has been for Langlie to tackle Magnuson.

But with GOP optimism about defeating Magnuson falling off sharply, it is being argued that the party cannot afford to have its champion, Langlie, take on Magnuson and be defeated. Better hold the governorship and wait until a more favorable year to attempt to break the Democratic hold on the state's two Senate seats.

While all this is still in the backroom political talk stage, it is thought by observers here that such a development in Washington state will have the effect of increasing pressure on Governor Patterson to go against Wayne Morse.

The Republican drive to win either or both of these two seats that will be at stake next year carries momentum beyond the usual importance attached to a contest over any Senate seat, for as it now stands all four of the Oregon-Washington seats are occupied by Democrats, a condition that has served to diminish quite considerably the influence in legislative affairs of Republican interests in the Pacific Northwest.

Moreover, the "partnership" power policy being promoted by Secretary of Interior Douglas McKay for his home region is jeopardized by the united opposition of Morse, Magnuson, Sens. Richard L. Neuberger and Henry M. Jackson, who have sufficient strength if they exert it fully to block any "partnership" legislation from passage through the Senate as long as Democrats control the upper house.

These are factors that give weight to pressure being brought to bear upon Patterson, who as a senator would give the GOP critically needed political power in the Senate.

Observers here, both Republican and Democratic, are having all kinds of trouble deciding whether Patterson or Morse is currently the stronger — but there is general agreement that pressure for the governor to challenge the senator is mounting, particularly as GOP visions of defeating Magnuson in Washington state have begun to fade away.

Vale, Ore. — (U.P.) — The Malheur County budget board Friday estimated it would cost \$498,220 to run the county for the fiscal year 1955-56. The figure, a \$30,000 decrease from last year's, amounts to a \$500 increase in the tax base.

General Agreement To Arbitrate Near In Railroad Strike

Atlanta — (U.P.) — The chief union negotiator in the 55-day-old Louisville and Nashville railroad strike reported Saturday that a "general agreement" has been reached to arbitrate the dispute. But he said details still have to be worked out.

Reports Denied
G. E. Leightly, chief negotiator for the 25,000 striking non-operating employees, said reports "that the strike is almost over are not true as of this moment." He held out hope, however, of an agreement later in the day.

Federal Mediation Board officials indicated that a formal agreement would be reached "within hours."

There was no immediate indication whether all issues in the 55-day-old dispute would be settled, or whether the operating and non-operating unions involved would agree to return to work and arbitrate their differences later.

But there was little prospect of settling another labor dispute disrupting the South — that of some 40,000 communication workers against Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Co.

The CIO Communications Workers of America urged President Eisenhower to name an arbitrator to bring an end to the strike that "is causing untold economic hardship to many southern communities."

The communications workers offered to submit all the issues involved to an arbitrator but Southern Bell said it was a "calculated attempt to gain from an arbitrator what the union has not been able to justify through collective bargaining."

Malaria is common in 12 states of the United States.

Korean Surrenders After 10 Years Hiding in Caves

Agana, Guam — (U.P.) — A Korean born laborer, who remained at large on Peleliu island for over 10 years, told reporters Friday that a Japanese-indocrinated fear of American brutality kept him from surrendering.

The holdout, Pyonggi Takchon, 38, was caught pilfering food by a native family on the famous World War II battleground on April 28.

Takchon said the Japanese told him the Yanks would cut off his ears, hands and feet, so after the American invasion of the island he took refuge in a cave.

He said he lived on coconuts, crabs, wild yams and pilfered food, which he cooked in pots and pans in the cave hideout. He said he had a "long knife" for protection.

Takchon said he stayed on the opposite side of Peleliu from where the native lived. He said he sewed rags together for clothing and had 360 yet on his arrival here. He said he did not want to leave Guam but gave no reason.

Couldn't Identify Yanks
The holdout was unable to distinguish Americans from Guamanians or Filipinos. When asked to identify the Yanks at the Press conference, he grinned and looked puzzled. But his eyes popped when he was told the Japanese were beaten in Korea.

Study of Klamath Lake Algae Approved

Klamath Falls, Ore. — (U.P.) — A scientific study of Upper Klamath lake algae was a step nearer Saturday following tentative approval of \$1,000 in the city budget contingent on support from the county.

The study would be carried in conjunction with Oregon State college. Total outlay would be \$15,000.

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—THREE
Sunday, May 8, 1955
gaur island in 1942 from Teisen City, South Korea, where he had farmed. He was conscripted into a Japanese navy labor battalion and sent to work on Peleliu air-strips and fled to the hills when the Americans attacked.



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